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FIRST RECORD OF DILUTE PLUMAGE IN ROADSIDE HAWK (Buteo magnirostris)

On 16 August 1986, I obtained a Roadside Hawk chick, about 4 wk age that exhibited unusual plumage coloration. This bird was confiscated at the city of Xalapa, Veracruz, México, and was taken from the nest by a bird trapper from an unknown locality, presumably in the state of Veracruz. Some weeks later the bird died and the skin was prepared. It was deposited in the author's particular collection.

Plumage of this bird differed from the normal juvenile color (brown in most parts of the body) by being a very light brown or beige on back upper wing feathers and tail. I found no references of this coloration for this species in the literature (i.e., F. Weick and L. Brown 1980, Birds of prey of the world, William Collins and Sons and Co., London, U.K., W.S. Clark and B.K. Wheeler 1987, A field guide to hawks of North America, Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston, MA U.S.A.).

I thank Juan E. Gómez-Martínez for suggestions on an earlier draft of the manuscript and William S. Clark for valuable and significant corrections.—Sergio H. Aguilar-Rodríguez, Federación Mexicana de Halconería, A.C., Juan Soto 3, Xalapa, Veracruz, MEXICO 91000.